

one is flood irrigation, typically derived from stored waters or streamflows. Both of those kinds of croplands have vastly different cost factors that apply to them and, therefore, usually quite different valuations if you are going to buy them or if you are going to try to tax them. Under the current system, however, both of them are classified as irrigated cropland and what you tend to get is an average of the two classifications. And depending on the balance you might have of either one of those types of irrigated cropland in your county, or in a school district. Since now we are going to be paying additional attention to school districts, it might substantially affect the fair valuation of either one of those kinds of irrigated cropland. In addition, the Department of Revenue might be able to promulgate, for example, a category for recreational lands, maybe a category for large homesites, five or ten acre sights. They are not really agricultural in nature, neither are they purely residential in nature. Those are only examples of the kinds of flexibilities that are intended to be given to the Department of Revenue under the broad guideline that they develop categories as are appropriate for the valuation of land according to law. The bill does one other thing, and that is change the current requirements for valuation of wasteland. The current requirement is that wasteland be valued at 5 percent of the average actual value of all agricultural and horticultural land. We simply change that to actual value. There is no reason to use the 5 percent standard.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Will on the motion to advance to E & R Initial.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of LB 1088. I think the...the Revenue Committee heard this bill. It was advanced...this bill was advanced from committee without dissent. I think Senator Wickersham had done a good job explaining it. It does allow the Department of Revenue some latitude that they don't have now with respect to valuing agricultural land that makes some sense with respect to some of the differences that Senator Wickersham explained. I would urge the body support the advancement of it, and no one can say that I haven't supported an ag land valuation bill now.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Will, for clearing your conscience. Any other discussion on the motion to advance? Senator Wickersham, to close.